IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 4, 12, and 14 without prejudice.

Claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13, and 15-20 are pending in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An elevator for assembling a plurality of a large diameter pipe joints into a pipe string with a drilling rig, a first one of the plurality of large diameter pipe joints adapted to threadingly engage a second one of the plurality of large diameter pipe joints, the elevator detachably securable to an upper end of the first joint, the elevator adapted to both lift and position the first joint while it is stabbed and tightened onto the string, and the elevator further adapted to co-operatively engage a rotary table of the drilling rig to rotatably tighten the second joint to the first joint as the second joint is added to the string wherein the elevator is secured to the first joint with a bolt on collar and the collar comprises a plurality of Keystone-shaped recesses that extend over corresponding keystone shaped projections attached to an external surface of the first pipe joint.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The elevator of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the collar is bolted around an annular groove formed in an external surface of the first pipe joint.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The elevator of claim 1 wherein the elevator comprises a plurality of lifting pad eyes for attachment to lift lines on the drilling rig.

6. (Original) The elevator of claim 5 wherein at least one rotary table lug extends from one of the plurality lifting pad eyes to engage the rotary table.

7. (Currently amended) The elevator of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the collar comprises two halves, each half comprising a plurality of bolt ears adapted to receive bolts for clamping the collar.

8. (Original) The elevator of claim 3, wherein the groove in the joint is adapted to frictionally engage a complimentary, annular, centrally extending projection developed along an inner circumferential surface of the collar.

9. (Original) The elevator of claim 8, wherein the groove in the joint has a surface formed as a reverse angle shoulder adapted to engage and rest upon a similarly angled projection in the collar.

10. (Currently amended) The elevator of claim 8, wherein as the as collar supports a weight of the string from the rotary table, a surface of ~~the projection in the collar is slightly spaced axially from a groove surface in the joint whereby the surface of the~~ a projection engaging ~~the~~ a groove surface supports a substantial amount of the vertical load imparted to the collar by the weight of the string.

11. (Currently amended) A drilling rig for assembling a plurality of a large diameter pipe joints into a pipe string, a first one of the plurality of large diameter pipe joints adapted to threadingly engage a second one of the plurality of large diameter pipe joints, the drilling rig comprising an elevator detachably securable to an upper end of the first joint, the elevator adapted to both lift and position the first joint while it is stabbed and tightened onto the string, and the elevator further adapted to co-operatively engage a rotary table of the drilling rig to rotatably tighten the second joint to the first joint as the second joint is added to the string wherein the elevator is secured to the first joint with a bolt on collar and the collar comprises a plurality of Keystone-shaped recesses that extend over corresponding keystone shaped projections attached to an external surface of the first pipe joint.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The drilling rig of claim ~~12~~ 11 wherein the collar is bolted around an annular groove formed in an external surface of the first pipe joint.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The drilling rig of claim 11 wherein the elevator comprises a plurality of lifting pad eyes for attachment to lift lines on the drilling rig.

16. (Currently amended) The drilling rig of claim 15 wherein at least one rotary table lug extends from one of the plurality of lifting pad eyes to engage the rotary table.

17. (Currently amended) The drilling rig of claim ~~12~~ 11 wherein the collar comprises two halves, each half comprising a plurality of bolt ears adapted to receive bolts for clamping the collar.

18. (Original) The drilling rig of claim 13, wherein the groove in the joint is adapted to frictionally engage a complimentary, annular, centrally extending projection developed along an inner circumferential surface of the collar.

19. (Currently amended) The drilling rig of claim 18, wherein the groove in the joint has a surface formed as a reverse angle shoulder adapted to engage and rest upon a similarly angled projection in the collar.~~11.~~

20. (Currently amended) The drilling rig of claim 18, wherein as the ~~as~~ collar supports a weight of the string from the rotary table, a surface ~~of the projection in the collar is slightly spaced axially from a groove surface in the joint whereby the surface~~ of ~~the~~ a projection engaging ~~the~~ a groove surface supports a substantial amount of ~~the~~ a vertical load imparted to the collar by the weight of the string.